STEVE

THE INTERVIEW, PART TWO

WEB [IN]SIGHTS

In part one, neo-AMAZING SPIDER-MAN penciler Steve Skroce talked about his entry into professional comic book artistry, his first regular series, and how his work on popular X-Men characters have put him on the map of Marvel big name artists. For part two, I caught up with Steve while he was finishing a late pre-holiday dinner, but in between bites, he managed to reveal quite a bit about his newest and most sought-after assignment: drawing the monthly adventures of everyone's favorite web-swinging wonder in his flagship title...

MB: We left off talking about your contributions to X-MAN... let's get into...(dramatic pause)... your history with Spider-Man!
SS: Yeah, all three and a half issues of it!

MB: Well, I'm guessing your association with the character himself has been somewhat longer...
SS: True. I nagged those guys forever to let me draw this book!

MB: You mentioned last time the first actual issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN that you read, but what was your actual first encounter with Spidey?

SS: I first got into the book during John Romita, Jr. original run on it. I love his stuff!

MB: Did you watch the old cartoons?
SS: Yep. I didn't like 'em too much, actually. When I was a kid, I didn't like any hero without a cape. It took a long time for me to start liking Spider-Man. I'm talking when I was real little. I started liking him more as I got older and —ahem, more mature.

MB: Did you ever watch the live action TV show? The one with Nicholas Hammond?
SS: Oh, I loved that show! I saw it again recently on the Sci-Fi Network, and I realized how cheesy some of the "stunts" were. There was one scene where guys were running down a fire escape trying to catch Spider-Man, and Spidey was slowly crawling down the side of the building next to them and beat them down. What a great stunt, y'know? He's got all of these great powers, and it looks like all he can do is get down the building just a little faster than normal people! (Both laugh)

MB: When you first "discovered" Spidey, what was it about him that finally struck you as cool?
SS: I liked him because he was funny, kind of a smart mouth. I liked how he frustrated his enemies with insults and wisecracks. What I liked most about him was the choreography. Do you know what I mean?

MB: I'm not sure...
SS: When you watch someone fight... if you watch Wolverine fight, if you watch Colossus fight, if you watch Superman fight, if you watch Batman fight... most of the time it's all very similar: a lot of punching, swinging arms — very similar poses, leaping, punching, hitting, kicking, over and over. Then you've got the other extreme — characters like Magneto, and even X-Man and Cable, and it's all guns firing or throwing energy around. Whenever Spider-Man had an action sequence, it was like seeing a movie that had a lot of good choreography. He was very inventive in the way he defeated foes. Some of the moves were goofy, but they were all in the context of the character. It's such a unique style that you look now and see a character act a certain way and say, "Oh, that's very Spider-Manlike." That's what I like about him... just watching him do his thing is just so fun. That's what I love about drawing AMAZING... the sky's the limit! I have a scene where Spidey's chasing a mugger, he takes some old tires with his feet. Sand traps the mugger inside 'em, because... well, why not?

MB: So do you "ad lib" a lot of the actual fight choreography or is most of it spelled out when you get the plot?

SS: Well, (AMAZING writer)Tom DeFalco

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, I CAN STICK TO A LOT MORE THAN JUST WALLS —
PWAP
— WHICH COMES IN REAL HANDY WHEN I DON'T WANT TO DIRTY MY GLOVES!

usually leaves a lot of it open for me to do what I want, so that's cool.

MB: What were some of your personal favorite Spider-Man stories?

SS: Well, I was getting the MARVEL TALES issues that reprinted all the early Steve Ditko stories, and reading them during the same time as the John Romita Jr. issues. And though at the time they looked kind of "normal" in comparison, I later appreciated the style of those issues a lot. There was the whole Hobgoblin storyline in AMAZING by Roger Stern and J.R. Jr. That was when I first started collecting. Probably my favorite story of all time was "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" by Stern and Ron Frenz. There was that story in the Lee-Ditko era — and again, I didn't appreciate the artwork as much at the time — where Spidey is trapped under all of this wreckage, and there's like two pages of him just straining against all that weight, while in his mind, he's thinking that he's gotta save Aunt May because she's sick and he needs her. It was so cool because Spider-Man was such a realistic character. It was one of those really great character moments. And as a reader, you're cheering for him, like "Yeah!!" Then, of course, he throws the wreckage off of himself, and beats the crap out of all of Doc Ock's purple goon guys! (Laughs)

MB: Yeah, that was one of the classics! That was the end of the "Master Planner" story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #37, I think.

SS: I liked "Kraven's Last Hunt." I liked the early stories with the Black Cat — a really sexy character. I liked the stuff David Michelinie and Todd McFarlane did on AMAZING. Those early Venom stories were really cool. I remember a lot of the people were griping about the anatomy back then — everybody's got a broken hip, that kind of thing — but McFarlane definitely brought something to the character that worked! I really, really like John Romita Jr.'s stuff — and John Romita Sr.'s too! And as for Steve Ditko, like I said, I like his more and more now that I can appreciate it. It's kind of weird... he must have been the McFarlane of his time, if you think about it.

MB: Yeah, it was much different than anything even Marvel had done at the time.

SS: Oh, and I like Mike Wieringo's current work too, on SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN!

MB: So how does it feel to be not only the first guy to draw a living Norman Osborn for the first time in about twenty years, and the last guy to draw the Ben Reilly Spidey in action?

SS: I just wished I could have been the one to actually kill Ben Reilly! Sorry, I just never liked that character! (Laughs) You want to hear my idea which no one liked? I wanted to have him get impaled, then eaten alive by ants!

MB: Well, he did get impaled.

SS: Oh, yeah, that's right... Anyway, it was cool to draw Norman Osborn, but I wished I got to draw him as the Green Goblin!

MB: Well, there's still a chance you will. On the subject of Spidey's villains, who are some of your favorites you'd like to draw?

SS: Favorite villains? Well, I like the Rhino.

And Venom — everybody likes Venom. The Lizard, the Vulture — practically all the classic ones, really.

MB: Any oddball favorites that no one else remembers? Like for example Mike Wieringo told me he liked the Looter...
SS: No, I didn't really get into any of the really goofy ones. Like, what was the name of the guy with the roller skates...?

MB: The Rocket Racer!
SS: Ah, yes! Well, I can't say he was one of my favorites.

MB: How about the Big Wheel?
SS: The Big Wheel! Oh, man, what the '70's did to Spider-Man... (Laughs) I think I always liked the villains that were strange; I mean, all Spidey villains should be strange, but I mean strange in a scary way, you know what I mean? Like the Vulture — he's this grumpy old man, and that's what I liked about him the most. I always wanted to do this scene in a story where Spider-Man shows up at some hidden fortress of his and the fortress has a lawn. And you can end the story with a cliffhanger as the Vulture says, "Get off my lawn!" (Both laugh)

MB: What's coming up in future AMAZING SPIDER-MANs?
SS: We're going to be doing an Electro story; I had a lot of ideas about reworking that character right when I got the book. There's more stuff with the Black Tarantula, and the return of a classic Spider-Man villain that I'm looking forward to drawing soon. Can't give away much more about that one!

MB: Anything big planned for the anniversary issue, AMAZING #425?
SS: Yeah. I believe that's the ending to the Black Tarantula saga where we actually see the Black Tarantula for the first time. I think. That should be really cool.

MB: Do you listen to music while you're working?
SS: Sure do.

MB: What's the best music to play while drawing Spider-Man?
SS: Let's see... I've got Talking Heads playing right now. It depends. When I'm laying stuff out and I have to concentrate, I like to listen to something a little softer, like Peter Gabriel or Tori Amos. If I'm drawing a really intense fight scene or something, I go for something like Rage Against the Machine, or something else loud, like White Zombie. It really depends on my mood. Sometimes I listen to the

soundtrack of "Shaft" over and over again... because Spidey's the cat who won't cop out! (Both laugh.)

MB: It sounds as if you're planning to be on the book for a long time.
SS: Yeah, maybe another month. (Both laugh) No, seriously, I'll be here as long as they let me.

MB: And what would you like your run on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN to be remembered for?
SS: Hmmm... I guess I'd like people to remember the fun aspect that I'm trying to get across. I'd like them to look back and see that some different things were attempted. It'll take a while to build that up, I know. I'd really like to be seen as providing my own particular flavor of Spidey-excitement flavor. But that remains to be seen. Hey, for all we know, this article will never see print. (Laughs)

MB:Well, it is running late because of the holidays. Did you read part one in last month's VISION?
SS: No, I haven't seen it yet. Plus, I'm sure it's all sold out already, right? People saw "Steve Skroce Interview" on the cover and it sold two million copies, right? (Laughs)

MB: (Laughs) Yeah, you know, you may never get to see it!
SS: Just my luck! Guess I'd better just get back to work...

— Mark Bernardo

Protecting their human identity is an impossible luxury.

Welcome to the Marvel Universe that w
on the eve of the birth of Marvel Comics. T
world that might still be becoming.

TONY SALMONS, famed for his
NORTH, DOCTOR STRANGE, MARVEL
Animated Series" and "Aeon Flux", takes h

All have, listened with keen ears to the s
Bomb, a nuclear weapon with a high ga
remember that minutes before the bomb was scheduled to
was found on the perimeter of the **test site** .

Banner, with only seconds to spare, reached Jones and pu
was not as lucky and was caught in the blast, only to be tr

But in the world where Tony Salmons designs the Hulk, H

For in the world of Time Slip, Banner just reaches Jone
a result of the blast, Banner and Jones are fused into on

or Incredible Hulks.

In this world, it is not the anxiety or a
but the anger of either. And so, compo
is the fact that another individual, ei
their life into the persona of the
threatened, or when they themselve

Protecting their human identity
one explain the literal melding
indestructible force from which

But the **hatred** that tra
ning, for on this Earth, we
ery is made. It's the disc
these two individuals ca
for the other. Where on
only ally, here he is
that created the bon
can free him.

So while Jones h
hunts for a cur
them both. The
from each o
overtakes t
same being
then, it is
is not saf

vould have been if today's hottest creators had been with Stan Lee Think of this as the world that might have been. Think of it as the

work on VIGILANTE, LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT, DAKOTA FANFARE and his work as an animator for both "Batman, The is explosive pencils to the gamma-spawned INCREDIBLE HULK.

tory of how Dr. Bruce Banner created and tested a "Gamma mma radiation output, in the wastelands of the Southwest. And all ignite, Banner watched in horror as a teenager named Rick Jones

ushed him into a protective trench, saving his life. Banner, though, ransformed into the incredible Hulk.

Rick Jones is not so fortunate. And neither is Banner.

es. There is no time to save him or push him into the trench. As e being... becoming both the Incredible Hulk...

nger of one man that causes the transformation, unding the anger that causes this transformation ther Banner or Jones, is literally yanked from Hulk. Neither knows when the other will be s will **lose control.**

is an impossible luxury. For how would of these two generations together into an no one of any age is safe?

nsforms each of them is just the begin- eks after this tragedy ignites, a discov- overy that the death of either one of arries with it the promise of freedom ce Rick Jones was perhaps Banner's Banner's enemy. For it was Banner nb. And it is Banner's death that

unts for Banner, Banner e to the plague that threatens e only time these two are safe ther now is when the rage hem and they become the ... the Incredible Hulk. And the rest of the world that fe from them.

TIMESLIP • TONY SALMONS

the hatred that transforms...
THE
HULK
an indestructible force...
timeship

Origin Of The Species:

MOON KNIGHT

Meet Marvel's Moonlit Mercenary!

He looks more like an executioner than a hero, with his hangman's hood and deadly weapons, but that's probably just how he wants it. He's Moon Knight, one of Marvel's most ambiguous characters. Is he a hero? Is he a villain? Who is he? Even he doesn't know.

Moon Knight doesn't have a secret identity—he has several. Is he a costumed vigilante? Cab driver Jake Lockley? Millionaire Steven Grant? Mercenary Marc Spector? Like the moon itself, he goes through different phases.

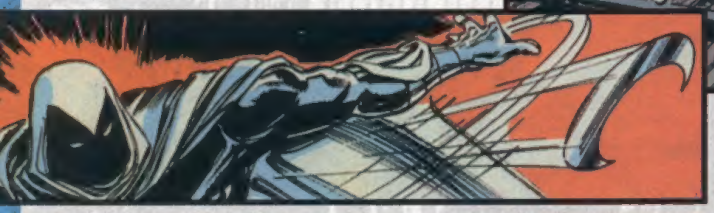
Moon Knight first showed up in the mid '70s, as part of Marvel's 'new wave' of harsh heroes. Unlike the '60s superheroes, the '70s creations were tough, mean and occasionally murderous antiheroes. It's no accident that Moon Knight, Wolverine and The Punisher all came about at the same time.

Like The Punisher and Luke Cage, Moon Knight started out as a mercenary. He first turned up in the pages of WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #32, where he beat the lycanthropic lead to a bloody pulp.

Moon Knight was created by writer Doug Moench, who points out that MK "started out as a villain. In WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, he was definitely a bad guy. Since he fought a werewolf, he was sort of heroic because fighting a werewolf isn't exactly an evil thing," he laughs.

"You tried to be sympathetic to the werewolf because he was the title character and yet, a guy who goes against him isn't evil. I made Moon Knight a mercenary, so he's a hero with flaws—a villain with redeeming qualities."

What made him stand out were his brutal methods. Where most heroes simply knock somebody out, Moon Knight would take great pride in making sure it hurt. He used his fists(he wore silver-enhanced gauntlets) and his weapons of choice were a silver truncheon and his 'Crescents'—small, half moon-shaped silver darts that would embed in his enemies' skin.



Moon Knight started out as globe-trotting soldier of fortune Marc Spector. While raiding a village south of the Egyptian border, Spector had a change of heart about his profession. He was serving as second-in-command to mercenary leader Bushman, a crazed warrior in face paint. After their forces slaughtered an unprepared rebel contigent, he was revolted by their cruelty.

When Bushman asked him why he wasn't enjoying their victory, Spector made the mistake of telling him "Maybe I'm remembering I'm a professional soldier—not a butcher!" Bushman then had his men execute an entire village, simply because it provided access to a newly discovered Pharoah's tomb. When Spector tried to stop them, he was gunned down. Left to die on the desert floor, Spector went into the tomb.

He died of his injuries. Fate intervened when moonlight reflected across the eyes of the tomb's statue—an icon of the Egyptian Moon god Khonshu—and hit Specter's lifeless body. Mysteriously revived, he took the robe off the statue(making it the hood of his costume) and declared "One of the gods of the Moon... Known as the taker of vengeance...His robe is mine now, I died to earn it. I'm a ghost now...A spector of the Moon...The Moon's knight of vengeance..."

Spector renounced his mercenary career and decided to use his new life to atone for his murderous past. Because Khonshu was a god of vengeance, Spector dubbed himself 'The Fist of Khonshu' and vowed to serve as his avenger on Earth. In his first appearence, Moon Knight seemed to only be a superbly trained human of normal strength. Instead, his strength increases or decreases depending on the size of the moon.

He's at top strength when the Moon is full, but when it's only quarter phase, his strength is "only a little better than it is under sunshine, but that still leaves me stronger than most normal dudes..." This is similar to the now-deceased Marvel hero Nighthawk, who gained his strength at nightfall. By day he was a helpless invalid.

Wearing a white and silver costume(the Moon's colors), he resembles an avenging ghost. At 6"2, 225 pounds, Spector makes a pretty formidable 'ghost'.

His villains included The Werewolf(now a friend in his human form, Jack Russell), Arsenal, the killer female Stained Glass Scarlet, The Secret Empire, his own brother Randall(who wears a similar costume as the evil ShadowKnight), the Conquer-Lord, the Knights of the Moon(and their leader Nepthys), and The Hobgoblin.(Hobby's second incarnation, Simon Macendale, was a merc with Spector and, disgusted by his old friend's career path, now wants to kill him.)

He's always had a good relationship with fellow vigilantes like Ghost Rider and Punisher. In fact, when Moon Knight finally faced Punisher, the

two didn't fight—they simply shook hands and noted it was "about time we met."

His only allies are "Frenchie", a helicopter pilot/sidekick who happened to be (You guessed it) French and the love of his life, Marlena. She supports Spector in his crime-fighting, but (not surprisingly) prefers him in his millionaire guise. In fact, she only addresses him as "Steven", preferring to ignore his other identities.

Marlena is unusual by comic-book standards, a tough woman, not a shrinking violet. She knows Moon Knight's secret identity, they have a very passionate relationship and she's not afraid to get down and dirty. If her lover's life (or her own) is in danger, Marlena won't cringe or hesitate—she will pick up a gun and blast the creep.

Moon Knight's costume is very practical. His cape allows him to glide through the air, he has a microphone built into his cowl so he and Frenchie can maintain radio contact and his expressionless face mask gives him a scary, merciless appearence. Even more interesting than his uniform are his multiple identities.

"When I created him, I wondered 'What would a real person be like who would dress up like that and fight crime?'" Moench states. "I decided he would be a little bit schizoid.I tried to approach Moon Knight as realistically as you could get dealing with a costumed hero.

"I gave him cover identities as a cab driver, mercenary and millionaire, plus Moon Knight, so he was four different guys. You can't get further from a millionaire than a cabbie. He uses the cab driver identity to obtain information."

He also owes an inspiration to DC's Dark Knight. "Batman was an influence," he confides. "I like him because he doesn't have superpowers, so when I created my own costumed character, he didn't have powers. He had a cape, so it took on a similarity, more than was really intended.

"I didn't want him to be as much like Batman as people perceived him," he admits.(Of course, Batman has also borrowed from Moon Knight—his small, skin-embedding batarangs in THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS are clearly MK's crescents!)

Ironically, after Moon Knight first appeared, Marvel hired a young writer actually named Steven Grant(He wrote MARVEL TEAM-UP and THE SHROUD.) "I know," Moench laughs. "I like to tell people that I created Steven Grant!'"

After his WEREWOLF appearences, MK had an impressive two-parter in the now-defunct MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. He became, like Namor, Hulk and Punisher before him, a popular guest star/sparring partner in various books, be it THE DEFENDERS(Where he unsuccessfully tried to take on Wonder Man!) to PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN(he fought the webhead to a standstill). His patience was rewarded in 1980 when he finally received his own book, simply titled MOON KNIGHT.

In a truly impressive 38-issue run, creator Moench teamed up with an innovative young artist named Bill Sienkiewicz. When newsstand sales were slow, it became one of the first Marvel books to be offered exclusively to the direct market. Because of Moon Knight's nocturnal nature, he could straddle the edge between superhero, crime and horror stories, fighting a thief one month and crazed cults, ghosts and demons the next.

After that, he did a few more guest shots, back-up stories in THE HULK and a MOON KNIGHT: FIST OF KHONSHU miniseries before becoming a member of the WEST COAST AVENGERS. This also led to him getting another shot at an ongoing series, MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT.

As he was now an Avenger(he later quit and burned his Avengers Priority Card when they considered expelling him for various offenses), his brutal behavior was toned down and he no longer used his 'Steven Grant' and 'Jake Lockley' personas, going public instead as Marc Spector, 'a dealer in fine art'.

Moon Knight also changed weapons, dumping his crescent darts and truncheon in favor of a pair of nunchuks(It was the '80s, ninjas were in!). Various mistakes were made with the character in this incarnation...As Peter Sanderson's new book MARVEL UNIVERSE points out, "The concept of the series became overly convuluted under other writers."

Some of these missteps include a "Batmanizing" of the character following 1989's Batman movie. Moon Knight was suddenly flying around in a Batjet-like contraption(which left Frenchie with nothing to do), he had a Robin-like teenage sidekick, Midnight(Who returned as a cyborg seeking revenge on his mentor!), he was suddenly sporting Dark Knight-like battle armor and gruff but lovable Frenchie became a butler-like sidekick. Worst of all, when the writers couldn't figure out what todo with him, Moon Knight was given a flesh-rotting virus! He seemingly died in 1994.

"I created the character and(saw him) driven into the ground and killed," Doug Moench says sadly. "Nobody who wrote Moon Knight after I left understood him, it's as simple as that.

"They gave him super powers and gold bracelets," he sighs. "The essence of Moon Knight is the night is black, the moon silver, so he had a silver and black costume. You don't stick gold on that—it has nothing to do with the night!"

Ironically, Moon Knight's potential is unlimited. Just as Punisher was heading for comic-book limbo as a jaywalker-shooting nutcase, a 1986 miniseries revived him and propelled him to new heights. That series kept everything that worked in The Punisher mythos and dumped all the mistakes.

The same type of revival series could work wonders for Moon Knight. So, here's to Reed Richards' finding a cure for his flesh-rotting virus and sending Moon Knight back into the nasty New York night where he belongs!

From New York, New York. A city that has more super-heroes than it does public restrooms, there once came the silliest issue of the AVENGERS ever! It was in issue #239, when the team guest-starred on a TV talk show hosted by a man who thinks the ability to leap from one TV network to another in a single career move should count as a super-power... Daaaaaaaay-vid LETTERMAN!

AVENGERS #239 was perhaps the only comic book in history, we think, to thank Larry "Bud" Melman for "Inspiration" in the credits. Without a doubt, this story could only have taken place during The Dreaded Assistant Editor's month—a one-time only experiment in which the Marvel editors headed off to the San Diego comic convention, and left their assistants to make merry with the Marvel Universe for one month!

As you might imagine, some of the stories got pretty silly—perhaps none more so than this unforgettable issue of the AVENGERS in which the team was invited to appear on a popular late-night show! Wonder Man's agent was the one who arranged the

SILLY MOMENTS

By Barry Dutter

gig, and, with the real Avengers away on a mission, [Of course.—Tim] Wondy rounded up a bunch of reserve members to take their places!

Unknown to the Reserve Avengers, one of their enemies had learned about the TV appearance in advance, and decided this would be the perfect opportunity to get the upper hand on Earth's Mightiest Heroes. Fortunately for the good guys, that enemy turned out to be Fabian Stancowitz, also known as a loser super- villain called the Mechano-Marauder!

As the show began, Letterman promised that it would be "the MOST special show we've had since our 'Camping With Barry White' program!"

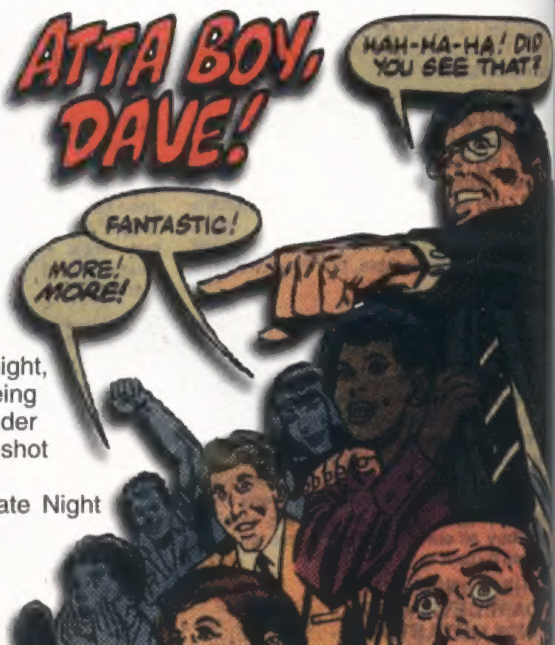
But Stancowicz had set a diabolical trap for our heroes! Once the Avengers were seated on stage, they were besieged by a horde of hi-tech death machines! The audience thought the attack was "some nutty put-on," as bandleader Paul Schaeffer put it. Stancowicz tried to grab his share of the limelight by walking onstage and bragging how he was going to destroy he Avengers!

When Letterman found out that "this twisto" Stancowicz was responsible for all the mayhem, the Lord of Late Night leaped into action, bashing Stanky over the head with a giant doorknob (a popular running gag on the old Late Night show!) The Avengers trashed their mechanical attackers, and the audience went home satisfied.

--I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO PULL THE BIG KNOB ON YOUR CAREER!
DOO OING
I'M REALLY SORRY IT HAD TO END THIS WAY! I'VE NEVER HAD TO DO THIS TO A GUEST BEFORE!

When the Avengers arrived back at the mansion that night, they were surprised to learn that the episode was being pre-empted by a special news report! Much to Wonder Man's disappointment, the Avengers' late-night guest-shot was never shown on TV!

Oh well—the team could always appear on Late Night With Conan O'Brien someday...!



AND NOW...A MAN WHO'S NOT ASHAMED OF HIS PAST... DAA-VID LETTERMAN!!
THANK YOU...THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
TONIGHT... WHAT CAN I SAY? TONIGHT IS SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL!
IN FACT, IT'S PROBABLY THE MOST SPECIAL SHOW WE'VE HAD SINCE OUR "CAMPING WITH BARRY WHITE" PROGRAM!
YES...HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT? BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO MR. WHITE--
--I THINK THAT THIS SHOW MAY BE OUR GREATEST EVER. BUT, AS THEY SAY, "THAT'S FOR HISTORY TO DECIDE!"
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE RAIDING THE ICE BOX AND MISSED THE ANNOUNCEMENT--AND ARE NO DOUBT WONDERING WHY WE HAVE ALL THESE CHAIRS OUT TONIGHT--
OUR GUESTS ARE THE AVENGERS!
RIGHT, PAUL? LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!--
"--OUR BANDLEADER, PAUL SHAFFER!"
THAT'S RIGHT, DAVE! WE'VE BEEN DOING LATE NIGHT SINCE--WHEN? THE LATE 50s?--AND I'VE NEVER LOOKED FORWARD TO ANY SHOW AS MUCH AS I HAVE THIS ONE!
WHAT CAN I SAY? THE AVENGERS ARE SIMPLY MARVELOUS!
HEH-HEH-HEH! CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, PAUL, BUT ISN'T THAT--?
YES, DAVE, A CAPTAIN AMERICA JERSEY...IN HONOR OF THE AVENGERS!
BY GOLLY, I GUESS THAT PROVES WE'RE ALL PRETTY EXCITED, SO WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN WITH ME IN WELCOMING...
THE AVENGERS!

FOLD COPY
TRIM COPY
YELLOW TS
BLACK TS
RED TS
BLUE TS

THIS IS EMBARRASSING. FOR YEARS, FANS NUMBERING JUST SHORT OF MILLIONS HAVE WRITTEN INTO MARVEL DEMANDING THE RETURN OF ARTIST PAUL SMITH TO THE HALLOWED HALLS. PAUL SMITH, AS THOSE WHO SPEND THEIR DAYS AND NIGHTS DOING NOTHING BUT GORGING THEMSELVES ON THE MODERN MYTHOLOGY THAT IS MARVEL WILL REMEMBER, WAS RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR THE ISSUES OF UNCANNY X-MEN THAT FEATURED THE FIRST STORYLINE FEATURING MADELYNE PRYOR AND ROGUE'S FIRST ADVENTURES WITH THE TEAM, BUT ALSO MADE DR. STRANGE, ALONG WITH WRITER WITHOUT COMPARE, ROGER STERN, ONE OF MARVEL'S MOST CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED TITLES. IN FACT, THAT ERA OF DR. STRANGE IS CONSIDERED THE GREATEST THE MASTER OF MYSTIC ARTS HAS EVER SEEN. TODAY, PAUL SMITH LABORS WITH WRITER JAMES ROBINSON ON THEIR CREATOR-OWNED TITLE LEAVE IT TO CHANCE

THE GREATEST COMICS

PAUL SMITH

AMS.95

TITLE _____ ARTIST PAUL SMITH

NEVER SEEN

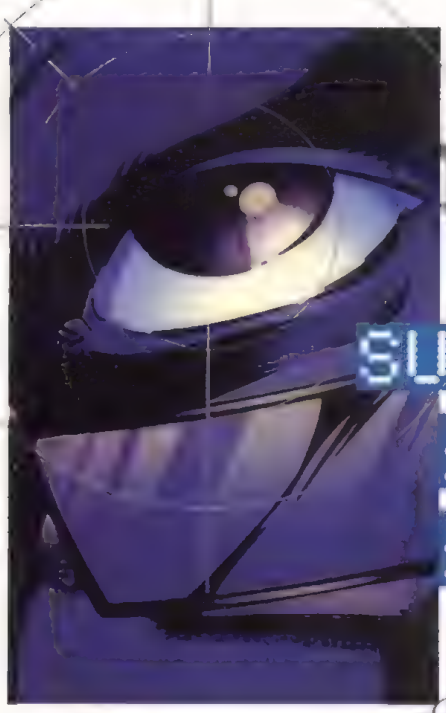
THAT'S DRAWING ALL KINDS OF RAVES.

BUT REMEMBER WHEN WE SAID THIS WAS EMBARRASSING... WELL... PAUL HAS DONE A LOT OF WORK FOR MARVEL RECENTLY. AND EACH JOB WAS SOMEHOW CURSED TO NEVER SEE PRINT... UNTIL NOW, THAT IS. WHETHER IT WAS VIDEO COVERS, BOOKS OR ANYTHING, THE LICENSEE CHANGED THEIR MIND, WENT OUT OF BUSINESS OR SOMETHING.

AND NOW IT IS WITH A GREAT SENSE OF PRIDE THAT WE PRESENT THE PAUL SMITH DESIGNS FOR THE MARVEL CHESS GAME THAT WILL NEVER SEE CONSTRUCTION. ONE PROTO-COPY OF THE BOARD AND PIECES WAS CREATED THAT EVEN TODAY SITS AS A BYGONE PROMISE OF WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. IMAGINE THE FORCES OF S.H.I.E.L.D. CONVERGING ON THE FORCES OF HYDRA EVERY GAME.

AND WHILE THIS AMAZING GAME WAS LOST TO ALL, AT LEAST PAUL'S INCREDIBLE THREE-VIEWS OF THE PLAYING PIECES CAN NOW BE SEEN.... IN THE GREATEST COMICS NEVER SEEN.

TITLE _____ ARTIST PAUL SMITH



BEAST FILES

SUBJECT :MISTER SINISTER :ESSEX

One man can make a difference. Every day we are reminded of this through the shining examples set before us. Where would our world be without people like Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington, Captain America or even our own Xavier? Yet for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This truth carries over in that for every positive influence on our world, there must be a negative. I can think of few more negative than the man known as Mister Sinister.

For the most part, Sinister has ever remained one of the elusive, unanswered riddles which has plagued the X-Men for years. Since Scott Summers' [See File: Cyclops] childhood, Sinister has been by his side, hiding in the shadows, manipulating him. Apparently, it turns out that Sinister found that the breeding of Scott Summers' and Jean Grey's [See File: Phoenix/Marvel Girl] DNA would create the ultimate mutant. So, like unto a puppet-master, Sinister has been ever the manipulator to see that this genetic stock is forged. When the Phoenix simulacrum [See Appendix: Phoenix Force] died, he got his wish. A long dormant clone of Jean was awakened. Seizing the opportunity, Sinister arranged for the Jean's clone which he dubbed Madelyne Pryor [See File: Goblin Queen/Pryor] to mate with Scott. The outcome would grow up to become Cable [See File: Christopher Summers/Cable/Askani'son]

Another machination which Sinister was revealed to have been behind was the so-called "Mutant Massacre." Sinister dispatched his Marauders [See File: Marauders] who swept a bloody path across the United States. They laid waste to hundreds of mutants, including a large portion of the Morlocks [See File: Morlocks]. It has remained a mystery as to why Sinister would commit such an act that seemed to be at cross-purposes with his stated goals. A large clue to this has now surfaced.

The time-traveling Askani recently dispatched Jean Grey and Cyclops into the industrial era of England. There, they confronted an obsessed scientist named Nathaniel Essex, who was on the brink of joining ranks with a mysterious benefactor. The strange benefactor who was none other than Apocalypse [See File: Apocalypse]. Despite Jean and Scott's best efforts to the contrary, they bore witness to the eventual birth of Mister Sinister... Thus the connection was revealed. The unholy union which would cause Sinister to enact a "culling" of the mutant populace for his "Survival of the Fittest" Darwinistic creator in years to follow. One can only hope that this duo's ties are severed.

NOTES:
"One impulse from a
vernal wood
May teach you more of a man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can."
-- William Wordsworth

Sad to say, but there is much to admire in this hell-bent madman. He is, at his heart, a true scientist... unfettered with emotion or regard for the price of his thirst for knowledge exacted on his fellow man. He has no chains of morality to bind him, as he has countless lifetimes with which to spend researching, and is seemingly impervious to physical injury. These are his strengths, but they are also his weaknesses. There is no fathoming the amount of sheer sensory deprivation a lack of emotion or physical pain might cause on the human psyche. Add to this an inhuman life-span and you have a time-bomb waiting to happen. In the end, it is not envy I feel for the man... but rather pity. For the ends do NOT justify the means.

He's written X-MEN, CAPTAIN AMERICA, KINGDOM COME, THE FLASH, the soon to be released KA-ZAR OF THE SAVAGE LAND (of which Andy Kubert is penciling–Plug! Plug!) and co-wrote the unbelievable finale to the Onslaught saga–ONSLAUGHT: MARVEL UNIVERSE. His name is Mark Waid.

MARK WAID– Do You Remember Your First Marvel Comic?

"I'm not sure if you really want to ask me that question. I mean, I hated the first Marvel Comic I ever bought. It really ticked me off.

"I grew up in Alabama and could only get comics through newstand distribution. And in those days, pretty much all we got were DC and a few Marvel books. Anyhow, my first Marvel Comic was X-MEN #17 which was written by Roy Thomas and penciled by Werner Roth. It was totally different from anything I was used to. It was only 20 pages long... and it had was one of those 'to be continued' kind of endings. Geez. I was used to Jimmy Olson, which was 80 pages long, had Jimmy dress up as a girl to stop some kidnappers in one story, Superman turn into a living tornado in another and Jimmy fight aliens in a third–and not a 'to be continued' to be found. I was 6 years old at the time. I swore then and there that I would never buy another Marvel Comic again.

"Five years later... well, I did. It was SPIDER-MAN #100. And that's what made me a Marvel Maniac forever. It had incredible art by Gil Kane. But when I reached the end of the issue this time, and saw that Spider-Man now had 4 more arms, and the story was going to be continued next issue... well, I cheered. I was hooked.

"Meanwhile, Jimmy Olsen was still dressing up as a girl, Superman was still turning into a living tornado and the same aliens were still trying to get past the Daily Planet's star kid reporter.

AND WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST MARVEL ASSIGNMENT?

"The first Marvel Comic I ever wrote was the second Deadpool limited series, which was drawn by Ian Churchill. I remember getting the call. I was told that a writer was needed for the limited series and the solicitation was due right now. After a second, I said I'd do it. What the heck. Little did I know what it would all lead to."

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE SPIDER OR THE MAN?
AT LAST! THE GREAT LONG AWAITED
100th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

Marvel Chronicle

1971

1971 was a strange year for Marvel Comics. The first phase of the "Marvel Age of Comics," the Silver Age, was rapidly drawing to an end, leaving many Marvel series in a creative slump. The new wave of writers and artists who had been fans of the Marvels of the 1960s had only just begun to arrive, one by one. Yet there were still books here and there that held the Marvel standard high.

It was in 1971, for example, that Marvel's new venture into sword and sorcery not only hit its stride but gathered considerable momentum.

The first full year of CONAN THE BARBARIAN by the team of writer Roy Thomas and artist Barry Windsor-Smith included their classic adaptation of Conan creator Robert E. Howard's eerie but moving "The Tower of the Elephant" in issue #4. CONAN's success gave rise to KULL THE CONQUEROR, another comics adaptation of Howard's work, as well as SAVAGE TALES, a magazine that was not bound by Comics Code restrictions on sex and violence and horror. SAVAGE TALES only had one issue in 1971 and would not have another for two more years, but that first issue was a milestone. Not only did it feature CONAN by Thomas and Windsor-Smith and Marvel's jungle hero Ka-Zar, but it also introduced the Man-Thing, a human being turned into a mindless swamp creature, by artist Gray Morrow and a new recruit to Marvel's writing ranks, Gerry Conway.

Stan Lee and John Romita Sr. were still working on THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but while the stories they turned out in 1971 remained enjoyable, they did not break new ground creatively. Still, in the world of Marvel, what once seemed like forgotten details can years later take on major significance. So it was that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #93-95 found Peter Parker following his girlfriend Gwen Stacy to London, where she was visiting her Uncle Arthur and Aunt Nancy for solace after the death of her father. Readers would see nothing more of Arthur Stacy until 1996, when he abruptly reappeared in the Spider-Books, belatedly starting his own investigation of his brother George's death.

Arguably the most important Marvel storyline of 1971 was the return of the Green Goblin in issues #96 through #398, written by Stan and drawn by Gil Kane. The revolutionary aspect of this story was the subplot. Stan Lee had been asked to do a cautionary story about the dangers of addictive drugs, but at that time the Comics Code Authority, to which Marvel subscribed, forbade all mention of drugs for any reason. Nevertheless, Lee and Marvel decided to go ahead with a subplot in which the Goblin's son Harry Osborn, distraught over his break-up with Mary Jane Watson—remember, back then, Peter was dating Gwen, not

1971 was a strange year for Marvel Comics.

MJ—had become addicted to some unidentified pills. In fact, at the story's end, it was the Goblin's horror at his son's condition that triggered his reversion to his Norman Osborn persona. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #96 through #98 were published without the Comics Code seal of approval, and, to the Code Authority's credit, it soon revised the Code to permit drugs to be shown in comics so long as they were presented in a negative light.

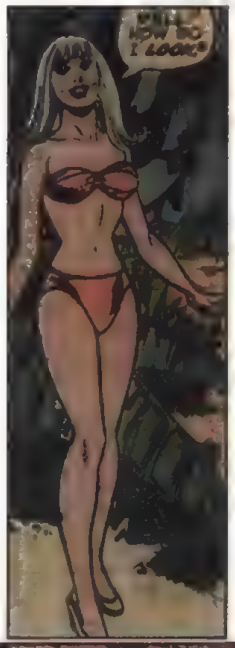
Readers surely expected something big would happen in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #100, but certainly nobody expected what actually happened!

Once again disillusioned with his role as Spider-Man, Peter Parker concocted a serum that he thought would remove his spider-powers. Instead, it backfired and made him more spider-like: it gave him four extra arms! Now he had eight limbs just as a spider did!

Having put Spider-Man in such a fix, Stan left it to Roy Thomas and Gil Kane to write and draw the next several issues and get Spidey out of it! Roy did just that, but in the course of doing so took the reader down yet another unexpected path. The Comics Code had also long forbidden the use of the elements of horror fiction in comics, but now this rule too was being relaxed. In another year Marvel would launch an entire line of horror comics, starting with the great TOMB OF DRACULA. But for now Thomas was testing the waters by introducing Michael Morbius in issue #101. Suffering from a blood disease, Morbius submitted himself to an experimental treatment that instead transformed himself into a "living vampire." He was not a supernatural creature like Dracula, but through scientific means had taken on vampire-like characteristics, including an uncontrollable lust for blood.

Seeking a way to rid himself of his extra arms, Spidey naturally turned to his old friend Curt Connors, the scientist whose experimental serum had turned him into the inhuman Lizard. (One notices a pattern here: scientists should not be guinea pigs for their own experiments!) With Spidey's characteristic bad luck he ended up battling both Morbius and the Lizard, but thankfully, Connors was able to use a sample of Morbius's blood to get rid of Spidey's new arms. And the whole story took only a short time so, no, Peter never had to explain to Aunt May why he suddenly needed shirts with a lot more sleeves.

Next Thomas and Kane sent Spidey off on one of his most unusual adventures to date. In an entertaining homage to "King Kong," Thomas had J. Jonah Jameson organize a Daily Bugle expedition to the prehistoric Savage Land, with Peter Parker as photographer and Gwen Stacy as a bikini-clad model. Once there Peter, as Spider-Man, of course encountered Ka-Zar, as well as his old enemy Kraven the Hunter, who had found and raised a gigantic alien monster, Gog, who, like Kong, soon menaced the hapless Gwen. But for the resolution of this tale, you'll have to wait until we get to 1972.



In contrast with its glory days of but a few years ago, FANTASTIC FOUR had a particularly disappointing year. Stan Lee and artists John Buscema and John Romita Sr. managed to rework an unfinished FF story drawn by Jack Kirby into a new adventure concerning a being called the Nega-Man in issues #107-109. But one could clearly see the FF was in trouble when in issues #110-113 the Thing went mad and turned against his teammates—for the third time! No doubt realizing the book needed a change, Stan Lee gave up writing FANTASTIC FOUR with issue #114 and Archie Goodwin took over with the next issue. Lee and Buscema seemed little more inspired on THOR, where the Thunder God spent much of the year contending against a mysterious, seemingly all-powerful entity called Infinity. This proved not to be the benevolent cosmic deity introduced decades later in QUASAR, but instead was Odin's own evil side that had achieved a separate existence from him. In other words, Infinity was to Odin what over twenty years later Onslaught would be to Charles Xavier! Buscema remained on the THOR series throughout 1971, but Stan left with issue #192, ceding the role of writer to newcomer Gerry Conway, who was to start popping up practically everywhere at Marvel by year's end.

Despite the fact that three of Marvel's best handled CAPTAIN AMERICA during 1971—Stan Lee and pencilers Gene Colan and John Romita Sr.—the Star-Spangled Avenger's adventures that year were less than memorable. The most interesting development was that with issue #134 the book's title became CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON. This was a significant landmark in comics his-

tory: for many years thereafter this would be a series about a partnership between a white hero and an African-American one.

DAREDEVIL was in a considerable slump as 1971 began, but the year brought signs of welcome changes to come. With the January issue new Marvel recruit Gerry Conway became DAREDEVIL's new writer. It took a while for Conway to get a handle on the series, but he finally succeeded by introducing a major new element: the Black Widow.

When 1971 began the Widow was still starring in her own series in the "split book" AMAZING ADVENTURES, for which Conway wrote two installments. But the Widow was inevitably outshone by the extraordinary artwork Neal Adams created for the other series in AMAZING—THE INHUMANS. The latter series took over the whole book with issue #9, albeit

without Adams, and Conway shifted the Widow into the role of a supporting player in DAREDEVIL with issue #81. Over the following year she would become the Man Without Fear's lover, partner, and co-star.

Moreover, with issue #76 one of Marvel's greatest penciler-inker teams first took the artistic reins on DAREDEVIL as Tom Palmer joined longtime DD penciler Gene Colan on the series.

It seemed that there was no longer an audience for Marvel's "split books," or perhaps the characters chosen to star in them lacked sufficient commercial appeal. Barry Windsor-Smith continued to illustrate KA-ZAR in his elegant, otherworldly style in ASTONISHING TALES for three more issues, but the great Wally Wood left the book's DOCTOR DOOM strip with 1971's initial issue. What should have been an earth-shaking event for Marvel fans—the first clash between its two preeminent villains, Doctor Doom and the Red Skull—was disappointingly executed. Doom left ASTONISHING TALES with issue #8, and Ka-Zar took over the entire book with the next issue.

IRON MAN likewise endured a bad year—so bad, in fact, that his series was reduced to a bimonthly schedule by the end of 1971. There were only a handful of events of any long-lasting significance: the introductions of Tony Stark's psychic girlfriend Marianne Rodgers in issue #36, Kevin O'Brien's first appearance as the original armored Guardsman in #43, and the debut of one of Iron Man's most persistent adversaries, the original Spymaster, in issue #33. Oh yes, and by year's end this book, too, was one of the omnipresent Gerry Conway's assignments.

Roy Thomas crafted a superbly dramatic conclusion to his three-year run on SUB-MARINER, beginning with Namor's long overdue proposal to his beloved Lady Dorma in issue #33. (In that same issue, characteristically for Roy, he established Namora, the Sub-

Mariner's cousin from his Golden Age adventures, as part of modern Marvel continuity.)

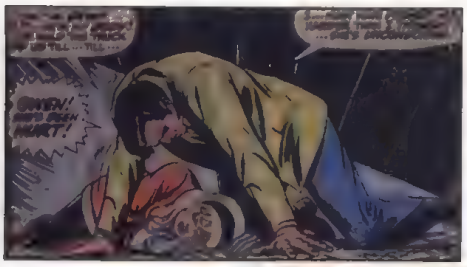
In the following two issues Roy and artist Sal Buscema created a new and very unlikely team: the "Titans Three," consisting of the Sub-Mariner, the Hulk, and the Silver Surfer! Oddly enough, the Titans proved to be the means for bringing Doctor Strange back into the Marvel Universe.

Strange had announced his retirement from practicing the mystic arts the previous year after he had lost his own series. Later in 1971 Marvel came out with a new book, MARVEL FEATURE #1. Not only did it contain a new solo DOCTOR STRANGE story, but its lead feature teamed Strange up with the Titans against the Omegatron, a doomsday machine created by Strange's deceased adversary, the alien scientist Yandroth.

Thus was born a brand new super hero team, the Defenders. The Surfer participated in this initial adventure, but would only turn up infrequently in the future history of the team.

Unlike most of the other Marvel super heroes, the Hulk had one of his best and most memorable years ever, thanks to Roy Thomas and Herb Trimpe, who wrote and drew most of that year's stories. It started with issue #135, a time travel story involving not only Kang the Conqueror but also Marvel's World War I aerial ace the Phantom Eagle, who had recently debuted in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. Next, in issues #135 and #136 came Roy's science fiction reworking of "Moby Dick," as the Hulk was shanghaled onto a starship commanded by the obsessed Captain Cyber, who was bent on destroying an immense whale-like space monster called Klaatu.

The greatest Hulk tale of the year was plotted by renowned writer and comics enthusiast Harlan Ellison and scripted by Thomas. It actually began in AVENGERS #88, wherein an insect-like being called Psyklop captured and shrank the Hulk into seeming nothingness. In INCREDIBLE HULK #140 the Hulk found himself in a "subatomic universe" on a world called K'ai. There a trio of sorcerers cast a spell that enabled Bruce Banner's personality and intelligence to take command of the Hulk's mighty body. Accepted by the



race of green-skinned people who inhabited K'ai, the Hulk became their heroic champion and won the heart of the beautiful princess Jarella. It seemed as if the Hulk had found paradise after so many years of torment. Yet, just as he and Jarella were to be wed, Psyklop's gigantic hand reached down to retrieve his victim. The Hulk rapidly grew in size, leaving the microverse and the distraught Jarella behind, and returned to his own world, where the sorcerers' spell no longer applied. He reverted to the brutal, slow-witted Hulk he had been, once again pursued by his enemies, yet still dimly remembering the happiness that once had been his.

This remarkable tale would have been achievement enough for the Hulk in 1971, but there were more surprises in store. In issue #141 a rather bad-tempered, physically unprepossessing psychiatrist was transformed by gamma radiation into the superhumanly strong Doc Samson. In issue #142 the Enchantress made rich socialite Samantha Parrington into the new host body for the spirit of Brunnhilda the Valkyrie. And then in issues #143 and #144 there was the Hulk's first confrontation with Doctor Doom!

By any measure, though, the greatest achievement at Marvel in 1971 came in THE AVENGERS, where Roy Thomas would top everything he had done before. Early in 1971 in issues #85 and #86 he transported the Avengers to a parallel Earth where they and we first met the Squadron Supreme, a league of heroes who were reminiscent of other well-known costumed characters and who would in the 1980s win their own classic limited series.

But 1971's piece de resistance began in issue #89, with the start of Marvel's first true epic, the Kree-Skrull War, a universe-spanning conflict between the two great galactic empires that Stan Lee and Jack Kirby had created, with the fate of Earth in the balance. Sal and John Buscema both contributed artwork to this monumental serial, but it was when Neal Adams came onboard as penciler that readers must fully have realized how extraordinary this storyline was. The Kree-Skrull War was as important to Roy Thomas's work on THE AVENGERS as the Galactus trilogy was to Lee and Kirby's FANTASTIC FOUR. And what appeared in 1971 was merely a prologue to the Kree-Skrull War stories that would appear in 1972.

But perhaps some of you are wondering about the X-Men. Astonishingly, there were absolutely no new stories with the X-Men in all of 1971! Oh, sure, they still turned up in their own reprint book, but other recently cancelled characters, like Nick Fury, Captain Marvel and the Silver Surfer continued to appear in 1971 in guest roles, or, like Doctor Strange, in a new format like DEFENDERS. Apparently, the X-Men were viewed as being of such limited appeal there was no need to do new stories about them. The relative handful of X-MEN loyalists left in 1971 had to wait until 1972, when the Beast would become the first X-Man to reemerge into the comics marketplace.

-Peter Sanderson

1971

MARVEL STUFF

PLAY VIDEO GAMES AND THERE'S A VERY SLIM CHANCE YOU'LL LIVE LONGER!

There are many things we do not understand or comprehend about the complex machine that is man. So vast in number are the vagaries of the human condition that if you were to stack them end on end, you could reach the moon and back several times over. Waitasec. I think if you take every Oreoo cookie ever made, and stack them end on end, you could reach the moon and back several times over. No matter. The point is, if you want to live a longer, healthier life, you really need to play more video games, such as the upcoming *X-Men/Streetfighter* arcade extravaganza from Capcom.

Set for a January 1997 arcade debut (with plans for a late '97 home video game release), *X-Men/Streetfighter* is the arcade game team-up of the century (easily beating out the arcade game team-ups designed by Edison and Tesla nearly 100 years ago). Having achieved spectacular successes with *The X-Men: Children of the Atom* and *Marvel Super Heroes* games, Capcom once again formed a partnership with Marvel to produce another captivating game. This time around, the uncanny X-Men join forces with the stars of Capcom's ever-popular Streetfighter video game series.

"The initial suggestion was Capcom's," said Dana Moreshead, who, in addition to being an Executive Creative Director for Marvel's Creative Services group, is an acknowledged chinchilla owner. "Putting the two groups of characters together seemed like a natural combination. Odd, but natural," joked Moreshead. The task of approving backgrounds, approving and developing character designs (as well as moves), working on packaging, advertising and marketing materials fell to Moreshead, who worked closely with Marvel Account Executive Lisa Leatherman to ensure that every aspect of the game would meet the high standards of Marvel fans everywhere.

On the Capcom side, Tom Shiraiwa headed the development team whose task it was to create this historic meeting between the X-Men and the Streetfighter characters. A group of very talented, highly enthusiastic people who, according to Moreshead, "make the best fighting-style games." Shiraiwa and his Capcom crew first worked with Marvel to nail down a concept that would explain the how's and why's of the team-up. It seems that arch X-foe Apocalypse has discovered a way of breaching the "reality barriers"

between the Marvel and Streetfighter universes. Contacting the evil Colonel Bison, Apocalypse assembles a veritable army to help him destroy the X-Men, and conquer both worlds in the process. Of course, the X-Men aren't about to take any of this lying down, so they join forces with several of the Streetfighter characters to stop the coming reign of Apocalypse.

In fact, the story was of paramount importance to both Capcom and Marvel. "The story aspect is one of the elements that sets Marvel's video games apart from any of the others on the market," said Moreshead. "The Marvel Universe, its characters, have an established history that almost everybody knows something about. You cannot disrespect that history."

Once both companies agreed upon the story, work proceeded at a feverish pace. The X-Men characters had to be re-designed in order to fit the Japanese Manga-style rendering of their Streetfighter counterparts. As you can see (at right), the mighty mutants easily adapted to their new look. From there, Capcom's designers and programmers began the grueling work of transforming mathematics and computer language into seamless, pulse-pounding arcade excitement.

The relationship between Marvel and Capcom, described by Moreshead as "excellent," continues to produce some of the most intense, visually interesting, and enthralling video games currently available.

And if you were to stack them end on end, you could reach the moon and back several times over. But you are much better off, atmospherically speaking, just going to an arcade near you and playing the *X-Men/Streetfighter* game for countless hours. Let it overwhelm every aspect of your life, to the point where you ignore your loved ones and your job and yes, even matters of your own well-being. You'll be glad you did!

- Steve Behling

AMALGAM COMICS

ON SALE APRIL 2

CHALLENGERS OF THE FANTASTIC NO.1

Karl Kesel/Tom Grummett/Al Vey

THE WORLD'S GREATEST DEATH CHEATERS, IN THEIR OWN MAG! SUE "ACE" STORM, FEARLESS S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT! REED "PROF" RICHARDS, DYNAMIC SCIENCE GENIUS! JOHNNY "RED" STORM, DAREDEVIL YOUTH! BEN "ROCKY" GRIMM, TWO-FISTED SENATOR! FOUR PEOPLE OF RECKLESS COURAGE SEEK OUT AND DEFY THE MIND-BLOWING MENACES WHICH LURK IN MYSTERIOUS CORNERS OF THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE! BUT HOW CAN FOUR "ORDINARY" HUMANS STAND AGAINST THE COMING OF GALACTIAC?!

THE EXCITING X-PATROL NO.1

Barbara Kesel/Bryan Hitch

THEY'RE BACK: THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-PATROL! THE DEMENTED BROTHER BROOD HAS KIDNAPPED SHATTERSTARFIRE! NOW NILES CABLE, ELASTI-GIRL, FERRO MAN, THE BEASTLING AND DIAL H.U.S.K. RISK CERTAIN DOOM WHEN THEY STORM THE DREADFUL BROOD PIT!

IRON LANTERN NO.1

Kurt Busiek/Paul Smith/Al Williamson.

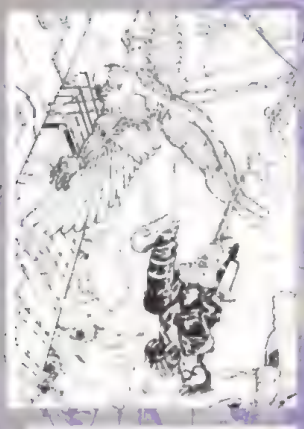
THE ARMORED EMERALD GLADIATOR BLASTS INTO ACTION! EMPOWERED BY OA THE LIVING PLANET, HAL STARK WEARS THE LIFE-SUSTAINING ARMOR OF IRON LANTERN! WILL THAT INVINCIBLE SUIT SAVE STARK FROM THE RAMPAGE OF THE COLOSSAL GREAT WHITE, THE HATRED OF MADAME SAPPHIRE AND THE WORLD-SHATTERING POWER OF MANDARINESTRO?!

MAGNETIC MEN NO.1

FEATURING MAGNETO

Tom Peyer/Barry Kitson/Dan Panosian.

MAGNETO AND HIS MAGNIFICENT MAGNETIC MEN RETURN! ERIK MAGNUS'S QUIRKY CREATIONS ARE TAKING A SHOT AT LIVING AMONG HUMANITY, BUT THE EVIL SCHEMES OF CHEMODAM AND QUASIMODOX MAY BRING THEIR NEW "LIVES" TO A SWIFT AND DEADLY END! PLUS: JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE BATTLE ROYALE ON KRAKOA, THE LIVING DINOSAUR ISLAND!

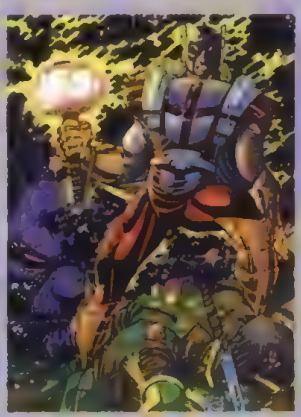


SPIDER-BOY TEAM-UP NO.1

STARRING THE LEGION OF GALACTIC GUARDIANS OF 2099

Karl Kesel & Roger Stern/Jose Ladronn.

THE ARACH-KID MEETS THE TEENS OF TOMORROW! JOIN SPIDER-BOY AS HE LEAPS HIS WAY THROUGH MULTIPLE REALITIES OF THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE! BUT HE CAN'T SAVE THE FUTURE ALL BY HIS LONESOME, THAT'S WHY HE JOINS FORCES WITH THE LEGION OF GALACTIC GUARDIANS OF 2099!



THORION OF THE NEW ASGODS NO.1

Keith Giffen/John Romita, Jr

NOW STRIKES THE MIGHTIEST ASGOD OF THEM ALL! IN THE BADLANDS BETWEEN THE POLAR REALMS OF NEW ASGARD AND APOKALIPS, A BATTLE RAGES FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE COSMOS! THORION, THE RESURRECTED ONE, COLLIDES WITH HIS HATED BROTHER L'OK D'SAAD, WHO'S ARMED WITH THE ALL-POWERFUL MOTHER CUBE! AND WAITING IN THE SHADOWS:

HEROES

ON SALE APRIL 9

AVENGERS NO.8

Rob Liefeld & Jeph Loeb/Ian Churchill/Jon Sibal

GUEST-STARRING SIMON WILLIAMS, A.K.A. WONDER MAN! WITH IRON MAN AT THEIR SIDE, THE ASSEMBLED AVENGERS SQUARE OFF AGAINST ULTRON AND THE LETHAL LEGION!

DAREDEVIL NO.365

Joe Kelly/Cary Nord/Matt Ryan

IT'S MR. FEAR VS. THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR WHEN DAREDEVIL'S DREADED FOE TARGETS OSBORN CHEMICALS! HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO ACQUIRE IT, INCLUDING USING LIZ OSBORN'S OWN BROTHER, THE MOLTEN MAN!

FANTASTIC FOUR NO.8

Jim Lee&Brandon Choi/Brett Booth/Tom McWeeney

MAKE WAY FOR THE THE INHUMANS! TO LEARN ABOUT THE GALACTIC THREAT, THE FF TRAVEL TO THE HIMALAYAS AND COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH BLACK BOLT'S BUNCH!

GHOST RIDER NO.86

Ivan Velez Jr./Pop Mahn/Jason Martin

WITH THE SECRETS OF HIS ORIGIN NOW EXPOSED TO HIM, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE TEARS A TERRIFYING TRAIL THROUGH THE HEART OF THE BRONX, AS WE WITNESS HIS AWESOME RAMPAGE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE DENIZENS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY NO.510

Tom DeFalco/TBD/TBD

THE RETURN OF LOKI! THE TRICKSTER GOD MAKES HIS TRIUMPHANT RE-ENTRANCE INTO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, FORGING A SINISTER NEW ALLIANCE WITH SETH, THE SERPENT-GOD OF DEATH!

KA-ZAR NO.2

Mark Waid/Andy Kubert/Jesse Delperdang

KA-ZAR TAKES ON GREGOR, THE MAN THAT TAUGHT KRAVEN EVERYTHING HE KNEW, IN THE MOST SAVAGE BATTLE YOU'LL SEE THIS MONTH! PLUS: SHANNA MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY ABOUT KA-ZAR THAT COULD SHATTER THEIR MARRIAGE!

KA-ZAR NO.2

Variant Cover by Andy Kubert & Jesse Delperdang

ON SALE APRIL 16

THE INCREDIBLE HULK NO.454

Peter David/Adam Kubert/Mark Farmer

• THE CONCEPT: A "JUMP-ON" ISSUE FEATURING A NEW STORY ARC AND THE DEBUT OF NEW REGULAR PENCILER, ADAM KUBERT! AFTER A BATTLE WITH THE US ARMY IN ANTARCTICA, THE GREEN GOLIATH CRASH LANDS IN THE LOST WORLD KNOWN AS THE SAVAGE LAND! THEN HE'S ADOPTED AND WORSHIPPED AS A GOD BY THE PRIMITIVE LOCOTS AFTER HE KILLS A DINOSAUR! TROUBLE IS, THE LOCOTS DECLARE WAR ON THE NOWEKS, A TRIBE THAT JUST HAPPENS TO BE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF KA-ZAR AND THE X-MAN WOLVERINE!

• THE CHARACTERS: THIS BRAWL HAS IT ALL: THE HULK, KA-ZAR, SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL, ZABU AND WOLVERINE!

• THE CREATORS: THOUGHOUT HIS ACCLAIMED RUN ON THE INCREDIBLE HULK, FAN-FAVORITE WRITOR PETER DAVID HAS TEAMED WITH A STRING OF TOP PENCILERS. THE TRADITION CONTINUES THIS MONTH AS DAVID IS JOINED BY ARTIST EXTRAORDINARE, ADAM KUBERT! AFTER A 3-YEAR RUN ON THE BEST-SELLING WOLVERINE, ADAM IS PUMPED TO TEAR INTO A NEW ASSIGNMENT, AND CUT LOOSE WITH A NEW WILD MAN!

IRON MAN NO.8

Jim Lee&Scott Lobdell/Ryan Benjamin/Saleem Crawford

DISCOVER THE HERETOFORE UNTOLD FATE OF REBEL-THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE TONY STARK'S BEST FRIEND -AND MAY BE IRON MAN'S WORST ENEMY!

PUNISHER NO.20

John Ostrander/Tom Lyle/Robert Jones

THE HUNT FOR THE FUGITIVE PUNISHER COMES TO A RIVETING CONCLUSION AS SALAKI'S GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE CORNERS CASTLE ON THE DEADLY STREETS OF NEW YORK'S ALPHABET CITY!

THUNDERBOLTS NO.3

Kurt Busiek/Mark Bagley/Vince Russell

SOMEONE'S USING FOUR FREEDOM'S PLAZA AS A HEADQUARTERS AND IT SURE AIN'T THE FANTASTIC FOUR! YEP, THE THUNDERBOLTS HAVE CLAIMED THE FF'S PAD AS THEIR OWN AND RECEIVE FULL SANCTION FROM THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK!

ON SALE APRIL 23

CAPTAIN AMERICA NO.8

Rob Liefeld & Jeph Loeb/Stephen Platt

ARTIST STEPHEN PLATT JUMPS ONBOARD FOR A THREE-PART SAGA! JOURNEY BACK IN TIME TO WORLD WAR II AND SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA UNITE WITH NICK FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS! FACING THESE AWESOME ALLIES: A NO-GOOD NAZI PLAT THAT INVOLVES A MYSTERIOUS ALIEN ENCOUNTER!

DEVIL DINOSAUR SPRING FLING

Cover by Humberto Ramos

Charles Marshall, Phil Crain & Bill Rasemann/

Kevin West, Arnold Pander & Jeff Rebner

DEVIL DINOSAUR AND MOON-BOY ARE BACK! FROM THE MIND OF THE LEGENDARY JACK KIRBY COMES ONE OF MARVEL'S QUIRKIEST COUPLES: A RAGIN' RED REX AND HIS FURRY LITTLE BUDDY! IN THE MISTY REACHES OF THE PREHISTORIC PAST THERE STRODE A MIGHTY CREATURE, A SCARLET-SCALED BEAST HIS ONLY COMPANION, A YOUNG DAWN-MAN CALLED MOON-BOY! HOT ON THE HEELS OF KA-ZAR COMES A 48-PAGE ONE-SHOT FEATURING THREE TALES OF ACTION AND ADVENTURE PERFECT FOR YOUNG DINOSAUR LOVERS AND VETERAN FANS OF THE KING'S CREATIONS!

ELEKTRA NO.8

Peter Milligan/Mike Deodato jr./Deodato Studios

FINALLY, ELEKTRA AND THE ARCHITECT COLLIDE! BUT ALL IS NOT AS IT SEEMS. THE ARCHITECT PASSES HIMSELF OFF ON STAGE AS CLYTEMNESTRA! MYTH AND REALITY MERGE AS ELEKTRA CONFRONTS THE MAN WHO SEEKS DEATH AT HER HAND!

MARVEL VISION NO.19

THIS FULL-COLOR, COMIC-SIZED MAGAZINE FEATURES ARTICLES ON UPCOMING PROJECTS, INTERVIEWS WITH TOP CREATORS AND MORE COOL STUFF THAN EVEN THE BLOB COULD EAT!

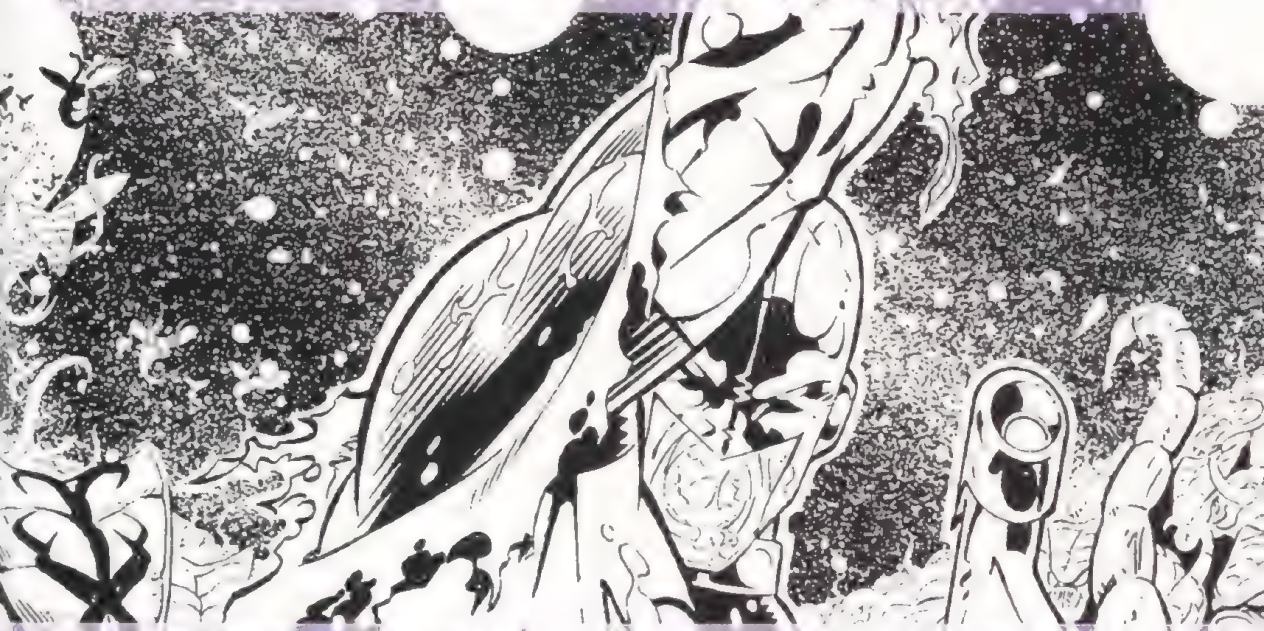
ON SALE APRIL 30

ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS
TRADE PAPERBACK
Stan Lee/Jack Kirby & Steve Ditko

BACK IN PRINT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 10 YEARS! THIS 260-PAGE VOLUME REPRINTS THE CLASSIC, DEFINITIVE ORIGINS OF MARVEL'S MOST BELOVED CHARACTERS. STAN LEE, JACK KIRBY, STEVE DITKO AND MORE BRING YOU THE ORIGINS OF SPIDER-MAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR DOCTOR STRANGE AND THE HULK! (REPRINTING FANTASTIC FOUR #1, INCREDIBLE HULK #1, AMAZING FANTASY #15, JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 AND STRANGE TALES #110.)

SILVER SURFER NO.129
J.M. DeMatteis/Ron Garney/Bob Wiacek

WHEN THE SURFER PROBES THE QUANTUM FIELD TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF REPRESSED EMOTIONS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ZENN-LA, HE'S PROPELLED BACK IN TIME! NOW NORRIN RADD AND ALICIA MASTERS FIND THEMSELVES IN THE LATE 1940'S POST-WAR AMERICA!



THE UNTOLD TALES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL NO.3 (OF 3)
Tom Brevoort & Mike Kanterovich/Scott Kolins/John Lowe

MARVEL'S LEGENDARY SPACE HERO SQUARES OFF AGAINST THE X-MEN'S NASTIEST FOES! MAR-VELL AND MIDIC LINA ARE STRANDED IN A HOSTILE GALAXY SURROUNDED BY A VICIOUS HORDE OF THE PARASITIC, ALIEN BROOD! DOES THIS BRAVE KREE HERO STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE ALIENS WHO WILL ONE DAY TERRORIZE THE MIGHTY MUTANTS?!

SPIDER-MAN

ON SALE APRIL 9

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NO.424

Tom DeFalco/Joe Bennet/Bud LaRosa

IF THE REVAMPED ELECTRO WASN'T ENOUGH, THE BLACK TARANTULA, THE HAND, DRAGONFLY, DELILAH, THE ROSE AND ELEKTRA SHOW UP TO HURL SPIDEY INTO NEXT MONTH'S BIG ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN NO.17

Todd Dezago/Mike Wieringo/Richard Case

THE BLACK CAT CROSSES SPIDEY'S PATH ONCE MORE, ONLY TO ENDANGER HER NINE LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE ALL-NEW PROWLER! PLUS: THE BEGINNING OF THE MOST ASTOUNDING VULTURE STORY EVER!

UNCANNY ORIGINS NO.10

STARRING THE BLACK CAT

Lysa Hawkins/Marc Campos

LEARN THE ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN'S FELINE FEMME FATALE! FELICIA HARDY, GORGEOUS PROM QUEEN BY DAY, SLINKY CAT BURGLAR BY NIGHT! FIND OUT WHAT SENT THIS SOCIETY GIRL INTO A CAREER IN CRIME AND INTO A LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH SPIDER-MAN!

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN NO.22

Kurt Busiek/Pat Olliffe/Al Williamson

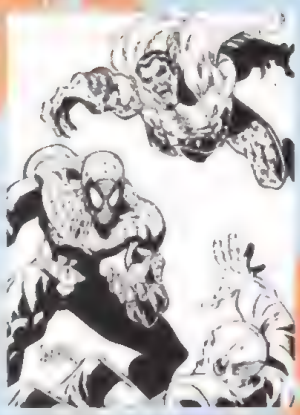
THE SINISTER SCARECROW IS SCARING THE BEEJEEZIES OUT OF NEW YORK! HOW CAN ONE LITTLE WALL-CRAWLER TAKE DOWN THE GUY WHO FOUGHT IRON MAN TO A STANDSTILL? PLUS: PETER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH BETTY TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE!

ON SALE APRIL 16

PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN NO.81

Howard Mackie/John Romita Jr./Scott Hanna

FROM THE PAGES OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN COMES SHANG-CHI! IN CHAPTER ONE OF A THREE-PART SAGA, THE MARTIAL ARTS MASTER KNOWN AS THE CAT CREEPS INTO THE BIG APPLE. WHEN THE MASTER OF KUNG FU GETS INVOLVED, IT'S ALL THE WEB-SPINNER CAN DO TO DODGE THE FLYING FISTS OF FURY!

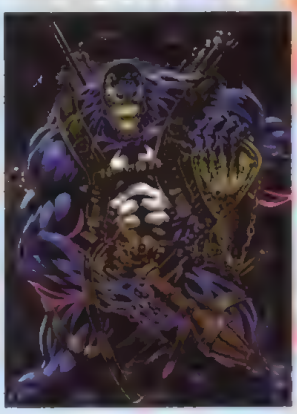


ON SALE APRIL 23

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN NO.247

J.M. DeMatteis/Luke Ross/Dan Green

BEGINNING THE FOUR-PART REVAMP OF THE JACK O'LANTERN! THEY SAY HE'S A GOOFY, PUMPKIN HEADED WANNABE. THEY'RE WRONG. YOU'LL GASP WHEN YOU LEARN HIS STRANGE CONNECTION TO J. JONAH JAMESON!



ON SALE APRIL 30

SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP NO.7

STARRING THE THUNDERBOLTS

Cover by Steve Lightle

Kurt Busiek/Sal Buscema

•THE CONCEPT: SPIDER-MAN MEETS MARVEL'S NEWEST SUPER TEAM!

•THE CHARACTERS: SPIDEY, CITIZEN V, ATLAS, TECHNO, SONGBIRD, METEORITE AND MACH-1 FIND THEMSELVES ENTANGLED IN THE EVIL DESIGNS OF THE ENCLAVE!

•THE CREATORS: KURT BUSIEK, FAN FAVORITE WRITER OF THUNDERBOLTS, UNITES WITH SAL BUSCEMA, THE LEGENDARY PENCILER WHO RETURNS TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE WITH THIS TITANIC TEAM UP!

VENOM: LICENSE TO KILL NO.1 (OF 3)

Larry Hama/Kyle Hotz

AN ALL-NEW STATUS-QUO FOR VENOM STARTS HERE! AFTER CUTTING A DEAL WITH DARRYL SMITH IN VENOM: ON TRIAL #3, VENOM FINDS HIS CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGED AND HIMSELF A COVERT OPERATIVE! NOW HE'S A SANCTIONED HIRED GUN, WHICH SPELLS BIG TROUBLE FOR THE HEROES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

STAR TREK/MARVEL MEDIA

ON SALE APRIL 2
HARVEY TWO-PACK
Various
MARVEL AND HARVEY TEAM UP TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL TWO-PACK CONTAINING TWO 32-PAGE COMIC BOOKS STARRING THE GHOST WITH THE MOST, CASPER!

ON SALE APRIL 9
CASPER AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE
Various
CASPER, EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE FRIENDLY GHOST, STARS IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE-SIZED, BI-MONTHLY COMIC! THIS DEBUT ISSUE FEATURES 64-PAGES OF COMICS, ARTICLES AND HAUNTINGLY GOOD FUN!

STAR TREK®: VOYAGER™ NO.8
Ben Raab/Jesus Redondo/Sergio Melia
CAPTAIN JANEWAY AND THE "QUESTERS" FROM THE VIDIANS, KAZON AND TRABE FINALLY ENCOUNTER THE MYSTERIOUS RELIC, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT WHAT THEY EXPECTED!

ON SALE APRIL 16

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE® NO.8
Mariano Nicieza/Tom Grindberg/Al Milgrom
ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROUTINE BOTANICAL EXPLORATION, KIRA, KEIKO, O'BRIEN AND JAKE RUN INTO DOUBLE TROUBLE: MAQUIS AND ROMULANS!

ON SALE APRIL 23
DOCTOR WHO NO.251
Various
THE OFFICIAL, FULL-COLOR PHOTO MAGAZINE FEATURING INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES AND COMICS CELEBRATING THE MANY LIVES OF THE LEGENDARY DOCTOR WHO!

STAR TREK®: STARFLEET ACADEMY™ NO.7
Chris Cooper/Chris Renaud/Andy Lanning
EDAM ASTRUN, THE NEW TELEPATHIC CADET, HAS BEEN SHOT AND NOG'S CONFESSED TO THE CRIME! BUT WHY IS HE HAVING DREAMS THAT HE KEEPS CHANGING FROM WHILE SHOOTING EDAM AND WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SHOOTING AND THE RELEASE OF A DEADLY SINGULARITY INTO THE LAB?

ON SALE APRIL 30

STAR TREK®: EARLY VOYAGES™ NO.5
Dan Abnett & Ian Edginton/Patrick Zircher/Greg Adams
CAPTAIN PIKE AND CREW BEAM DOWN TO A STRANGE PLANET IN SEARCH OF THE MISSING U.S.S. CORTEZ AND DISCOVER A GROUP OF VERY SPECIAL VULCANS DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO LEFT THE HOMEWORLD 2,000 YEARS AGO! THESE VULCANS ARE PURE WARRIORS, EMOTIONAL AND VIOLENT AND THEY LIKE IT THAT WAY! NOW THEY HAVE CONTROL OF THE CORTEZ AND THEY'VE OPENED FIRE ON THE U.S.S. ENTERPRISE™!

ON SALE APRIL 9

BEAST NO.2 (OF 3)

Keith Giffen/Cedric Nocon

KARMA'S SIBLINGS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED BY SPIRAL'S BODY SHOPPE, AND NOW IT'S UP TO THE BOUNCIN' BLUE BEAST TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS, THAT IS, IF SPIRAL DOESN'T KILL HIM FIRST!

CABLE NO.44

Todd Dezago/Randy Green/Scott Hanna

CABLE MEETS HIS MOM: MADELYNE PRYOR! NOW A MEMBER OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB'S INFAMOUS INNER CIRCLE, THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO NATHAN MEETS HER CHILD OF DESTINY! WHAT WILL THIS MEAN FOR CABLE AND FOR HUMANKIND?

GENERATION X NO.28

Scott Lobdell/Chris Bachalo

A PRELUDE OT THE UPCOMING "NO EXIT" STORY LINE! TRAPPED AND ALONE, THE GEN-XERS ARE LEFT TO BATTLE OUTSIDE FORCES AND A SERIOUS CASE OF CABIN FEVER! MEANWHILE, BASTION EDGES CLOSER TO GAINING THE INFO FROM JUBILEE THAT COULD DESTROY THE X-TEAMS, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

MARVEL ADVENTURES NO.3

STARRING THE X-MEN

Ralph Macchio/Ben Herrera/Armando Durruthy

QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH, ON THE RUN FROM MAGNETO'S BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS, SEEK REFUGE WITH THEIR FORMER FOES, THE X-MEN! OF COURSE, MAGNUS AND HIS SQUAD ARE HOT ON THEIR TAILS, AND THE RESULT CAN ONLY BE A BATTLE ROYAL OF EPIC PROPORTIONS!

THE UNCANNY X-MEN NO.345

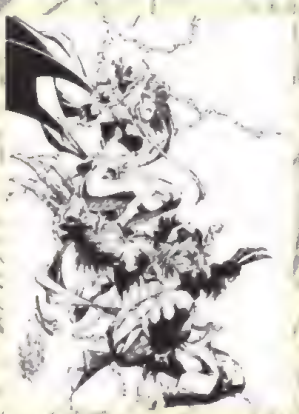
Scott Lobdell/Joe Madureira/Tim Townsend

IN THE WAKE OF THEIR COSTLY WAR WITH THE PHALANX, THE X-MEN BEGIN THEIR LONG TREK HOME, ONLY TO ENTER THE WONDROUS REALM OF THE MAN THEY CALL AKRON! NOW THE X-MEN ARE STILL MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS FROM HOME AND CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ANOTHER BROUHAHA!

X-FACTOR NO.135

Howard Mackie/Jeff Matsuda

AT LAST! STRONG GUY WAKES FROM HIS COMA AND FINDS HIS FORMER TEAMMATES REPLACED BY THE LIKES OF FORGE, WILDCHILD, MYSTIQUE AND SABRETOOTH! HOW WILL GUIDO REACT TO THE NEW, UNDERGROUND X-FACTOR?



ON SALE APRIL 16

EXCALIBUR NO.110

Ben Raab/Salvador Larroca/Scott Koblish

EXCALIBUR VS. THE DRAGONS OF THE CRIMSON DAWN, AS CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE! PLUS: WHO'S THAT GHOST THAT'S BEEN HAUNTING MEGGAN?

WHAT IF? NO.98

STARRING NIGHTCRAWLER & ROGUE

Cover by Frank Teran

Bill Rosemann/TBD

WHAT IF MYSTIQUE HAD NOT ABANDONED NIGHTCRAWLER AND INSTEAD HID HIM AWAY IN THE ATTIC WHILE SHE FORMED HER ALL-NEW BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS? AND WHAT IF NIGHTCRAWLER THEN FELL IN LOVE WITH MYSTIQUE'S NEWEST RECRUIT, THE YOUNG GIRL NAMED ROGUE? MOMMY DEAREST WILL *NOT* BE PLEASED!

X-MAN NO.28

Terry Kavanagh/Roger Cruz/Bud LaRosa

NATE, I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS. THE GOOD NEWS: THERE'S AN OFFER THAT GUARANTEES TO CURE YOU OF THE POWERS THAT ARE KILLING YOU! THE BAD NEWS: THE OFFER IS MADE BY THE DARK BEAST! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURVIVE WHAT DO YOU DO, NATE, WHAT DO YOU DO?!

X-MEN NO.65

Scott Lobdell/Carlos Pacheco/Art Thibert

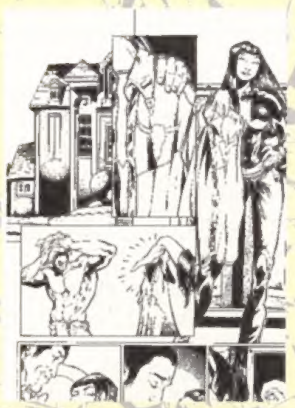
A PRELUDE TO "NO EXIT"! FOR YEARS THEY'VE PLOTTED THE DOWNFALL OF HOMO SAPIEN SUPERIOR, AND NOW, THANKS TO THE ENIGMA KNOWN AS BASTION, THE SCHEMES OF SENATOR ROBERT KELLY AND HENRY GYRICH MAY FINALLY COME TRUE! UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR DREAM MAY BE A NIGHTMARE AND KELLY'S LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO WARN CYCLOPS MAY BE TOO LITTLE TOO LATE!

ON SALE APRIL 23

CABLE & X-FORCE '97

John Francis Moore/Casey Jones/Jason Martin

WITH A POWER VACUUM IN ASGARD MALEKITH, LORD OF THE DARK ELVES, COOKS UP A PLOT TO TAKE OVER THE GOLDEN REALM, A PLAN THAT INVOLVES THE ENSLAVEMENT OF VALKYRIE AND MOONSTAR! NOW IT'S UP TO CABLE AND HIS MUTANT STRIKE FORCE TO STORM ASGARD AND SAVE THEIR FORMER TEAMMATE IN THIS 48-PAGE SPECIAL!



X-FORCE NO.67

John Francis Moore/Adam Pollina/Mark Morales

SHE BEFRIENDED HIM, SEDUCED HIM AND THEN BETRAYED HIM. NOW, IN ORDER TO SAVE RISQUE'S LIFE, WARPATH MUST JOURNEY INTO A STRANGE DIMENSION TO FIND A BEING LONG THOUGHT DEAD. BUT THE PRICE HE'LL PAY MAY PROVE MUCH MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR.

X-MEN UNLIMITED NO.15

Howard Mackie/Duncan Rouleau

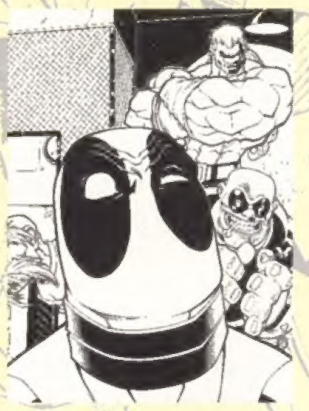
STARRING WOLVERINE, ICEMAN AND MAVERICK! CHRIS BRADLEY, THE YOUNG MUTANT INTRODUCED IN X-MEN UNLIMITED #8, TEAMS UP WITH THE COVERT OPERATIVE KNOWN AS MAVERICK. WHAT DOES THIS ODDLY MATCHED PAIR HAVE IN COMMON BESIDES THE LEGACY VIRUS? FIND OUT THIS ISSUE AS WOLVERINE AND ICEMAN TRY TO SETTLE A FEW OLD SCORES WITH TWO MUTANTS FROM THEIR PAST!

ON SALE APRIL 30

DEADPOOL NO.6

Joe Kelly/Ed McGuinness/Nathan Massengill

INTRODUCING THE WOMAN OF DEADPOOL'S DREAMS, OR IS IT HIS NIGHTMARES?! SHE'S THREE TIMES THE TROUBLE SIRYN WAS, AND SHE'LL LEAVE DEADPOOL SHATTERED!



WOLVERINE NO.114

Larry Hama/Leinil Francis Yu

WOLVIE'S BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER! HE'S GOT A BRAND SPANKING NEW ARTIST, HE'S WEARING HIS COSTUME AGAIN, HECK, HE EVEN HAS A NOSE AGAIN! YOU CAN BET HE'S READY TO THROW DOWN WITH ANYBODY, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'S JUST AS ANXIOUS TO SCRAP, THE CYBORG KNOWN AS DONALD PIERCE!

MARVEL LICENSED PRODUCTS

WILDSTORM FINE ARTS

LIMITED EDITION IRIS PRINT THE MIGHTY THOR NO. 337

CELEBRATING HIS 35TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1997, THIS LIMITED EDITION, HIGH QUALITY IRIS PRINT FEATURES THE COVER TO THE MIGHTY THOR #337 BY WALT SIMONSON. PRINTED ON ARCHES WATER COLOR PAPER AND SIGNED BY SIMONSON. LIMITED TO ONLY 300 SIGNED AND NUMBERED UNITS

LASER MACH

HULK LASER SCULPTURE

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY, MARVEL AND LASERMACH PRESENT THE HULK LASER SCULPTURE. A LIMITED EDITION OF ONLY 350 PIECES, THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF THREE 35TH ANNIVERSARY MARVEL CLASSIC LASER SCULPTURES. (STATUE MEASURES 5.75" WIDE BY 6.5" TALL.)

AUTHENTIC IMAGES

24K GOLD MARVEL CLASSIC CHARACTER CARDS

! THE ULTIMATE PRECIOUS METAL COLLECTABLE! THESE 24K GOLD METAL CARDS WERE PRODUCED USING THE UNIQUE "METAL TECH" TECHNOLOGY! A PROCESS SO DETAILED THAT THE IMAGES LOOK LIKE A PHOTOGRAPH IN 24K GOLD. THE ARTWORK FOR THESE EXCITING IMAGES WAS CREATED BY MARVEL COMICS ARTIST STEVE EPTING. EACH 2 1/2" X 3 1/2" 24K GOLD CARD IS ENCASED IN A CLEAR 1/2" LUCITE HOLDER, COMES WITH A FOUR-COLOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY AND FOUR-COLOR CUSTOM GIFT BOX. LIMITED TO 1,996 PIECES PER CARD EACH ENGRAVED WITH ITS OWN LIMITED EDITION NUMBER (FROM 1 TO 1,996).

CAPTAIN AMERICA
INCREDIBLE HULK
SILVER SURFER
SPIDER-MAN

THE HIGHLAND MINT

WOLVERINE SILVER MEDALLION

ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE ADAM KUBERT HELPED WOLVERINE STAY AT THE TOP OF THE CHARTS, BUT THIS TIME, HE'S IMMORTALIZED THE FERAL FAN-FAVORITE IN PURE SILVER! THIS COLLECTIBLE MEDALLION IS MADE OF ONE TROY OUNCE OF PURE SILVER AND IS LIMITED TO A MINTAGE OF ONLY 5,000 PIECES. ACCOMPANIED WITH A SERIALIZED CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY, EACH MEDALLION IS INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED AND PACKAGED IN A HARD PROTECTIVE CAPSULE. IT COMES ENCLOSED IN AN ATTRACTIVE VELVET JEWELRY BOX IN WHICH THE MEDALLION CAN BE DISPLAYED.

EVERBRITE

MARVEL COMICS NEON SIGN

LET THE WORLD KNOW THEY CAN MAKE THEIRS MARVEL AT YOUR STORE WITH THIS ATTRACTIVE MARVEL COMICS NEON SIGN. THIS RED AND BLUE SIGN INCLUDES A 3210 EVERTRON SOLID STATE POWER SUPPLY WITH A 10' THREE-WIRE CORD AND HANGING CHAIN KIT. THE GLASS COMES ASSEMBLED ON A PAINTED BLACK METAL BAR FRAME.

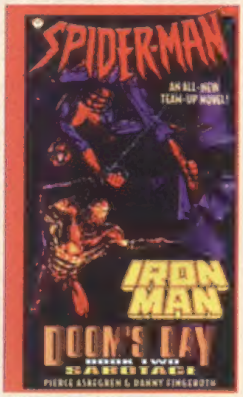
BYRON PREISS

MARVEL SUPER HERO NOVELS

DAREDEVIL: PREDATOR'S SMILE

DAREDEVIL VS. BULLSEYE! WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN. ILLUSTRATIONS BY BILL REINHOLD. COVER BY MATT WAGNER. 384 PGS.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK: WHAT SAVAGE BEAST
HAS THE HULK FOUND THE CURE TO HIS CURSE? WRITTEN BY PETER DAVID. ILLUSTRATIONS BY GEORGE PEREZ. COVER BY BRUCE JENSEN. 400 PGS.
IRON MAN: OPERATION A.I.M.
IRON MAN VS. MODOK! WRITTEN BY GREG COX. COVER AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOM MORGAN. 333 PGS.
SPIDER-MAN & THE INCREDIBLE HULK: RAMPAGE (DOOM'S DAY BOOK 1)
SPIDER-MAN AND THE HULK UNITE! WRITTEN BY ERIC FEIN AND DANNY FINGEROTH. ILLUS. BY STEVEN BUTLER. COVER BY VINCE EVANS. 288 PGS.
SPIDER-MAN & IRON MAN: SABOTAGE (DOOM'S DAY BOOK 2)
SPIDER-MAN AND IRON MAN VS. HYDRA! WRITTEN BY PIERCE ASKEGRAN AND FINGEROTH. ILLUS. BY STEVEN BUTLER. COVER BY VINCE EVANS. 310 PGS.
SPIDER-MAN: GOBLIN'S REVENGE
SPIDER-MAN VS. THE GREEN GOBLIN AND CARNAGE! WRITTEN BY DEAN WESLEY SMITH. ILLUS. BY JAMES W. FRY. COVER BY JULIE BELL. 288 PGS.
SPIDER-MAN: THE LIZARD SANCTION
SPIDER-MAN VS. THE LIZARD AND VENOM! WRITTEN BY DIANE DUANE. ILLUSTRATIONS BY DARICK ROBERTSON AND SCOTT KOBLISH. COVER BY JUDA TVERSKI. 304 PGS.
X-MEN: MUTANT EMPIRE BOOK 1: SIEGE
THE X-MEN VS. MAGNETO! WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN. ILLUS. BY RICK LEONARDI, RON LIM & TERRY AUSTIN. COVER BY RAY LAGO. 304 PGS.
X-MEN: MUTANT EMPIRE BOOK 2: SANCTUARY
MAGNETO TAKES MANHATTAN! WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN. ILLUS. BY RICK LEONARDI, RON LIM & TERRY AUSTIN. COVER BY RAY LAGO. 304 PGS.
X-MEN: MUTANT EMPIRE BOOK 3: SALVATION
THE X-MEN & THE JUGGERNAUT VS. MAGNETO! WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN. ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICK LEONARDI & TERRY AUSTIN. COVER BY RAY LAGO. 277 PGS.
THE ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN
SUPER SPIDEY STORIES! EDITED BY STAN LEE. COVER BY MIKE ZECK AND PHIL ZIMELMAN. 347 PGS.
THE ULTIMATE SUPER VILLAINS
BRING ON THE BAD GUYS! EDITED BY STAN LEE. COVER BY MIKE ZECK/ PHIL ZIMELMAN. 347 PGS.
THE ULTIMATE X-MEN
ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT X-MEN X-CITEMENT! EDITED BY STAN LEE. COVER BY MIKE ZECK AND PHIL ZIMELMAN. 320 PGS.



DYNAMIC FORCES
SIGNED MARVEL COMIC BOOKS

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL NO.16
SIGNED BY JOHN ROMITA AND JOHN ROMITA JR.
THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE NEW CAPTAIN MARVEL! ALL COPIES OF THIS ISSUE, RELEASED IN 1982, ARE VERY FINE TO NEAR MINT CONDITION. LIMITED TO ONLY 300 COPIES.
CHALLENGERS OF THE FANTASTIC NO.1
SIGNED BY KARL KESEL
AN AMALGAM TITLE! LIMITED TO ONLY 1,750 COPIES.
CODE OF HONOR COLLECTION
SIGNED BY CHUCK DIXON
FEATURING ALL FOUR ISSUES! LIMITED TO 250 COLLECTIONS.
THE INCREDIBLE HULK NO.454
SIGNED BY PETER DAVID AND ADAM KUBERT
ADAM KUBERT'S FIRST ISSUE ON THE INCREDIBLE HULK! LIMITED TO ONLY 750 COPIES.
LOGAN: SHADOW SOCIETY
SIGNED BY KEITH AIKEN
STARRING WOLVERINE AND SABRETOOTH! LIMITED TO ONLY 750 COPIES.
MAGNETIC MEN FEATURING MAGNETO NO.1
SIGNED BY DAN PANOSIAN
AN AMALGAM TITLE! LIMITED TO ONLY 1,750 COPIES.
STAR TREK/X-MEN
SIGNED BY SCOTT LOBDELL
CAPTAIN KIRK AND CREW. MEET THE MIGHTY MUTANTS! LIMITED TO 5,000 COPIES.

SHIP SHAPE

SHIPPING APRIL 2, 1997

CHALLENGERS OF FANTASTIC	PG 54
EXCITING X-PATROL NO. 1	PG 54
HARVEY TWO-PACK	PG 54
IRON LANTERN NO. 1	PG 54
MAGNETIC MEN NO. 1	PG 54
SPIDER-BOY TEAM-UP NO. 1	PG 54
STAR TREK: VOYAGER NO. 8	PG 59
THORION OF NEW GODS NO. 1	PG 54

SHIPPING APRIL 9, 1997

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NO. 424	PG 58
AVENGERS NO. 8	PG 55
BEAST NO. 2 (OF 3)	PG 60
CABLE NO. 44	PG 60
CASPER & FRIENDS	PG 59
DAREDEVIL NO. 365	PG 55
FANTASTIC FOUR NO. 8	PG 55
GENERATION X NO. 28	PG 60
GHOST RIDER NO. 86	PG 55
JOURNEY MYSTERY NO. 510	PG 55
KA-ZAR NO.2	PG 55
MARVEL ADVENTURES NO. 2	PG 60
SENSATIONAL SPIDEY NO. 17	PG 58
STAR TREK: DS9 NO. 8	PG 59
UNCANNY ORIGINS NO. 10	PG 58
UNCANNY X-MEN NO. 345	PG 60
UNTOLD TALES SPIDEY NO. 22	PG 58
X-FACTOR NO. 135	PG 60

SHIPPING APRIL 16, 1997

DOCTOR WHO NO. 251	PG 59
EXCALIBUR NO. 110	PG 60
INCREDIBLE HULK NO. 454	PG 55
IRON MAN NO. 8	PG 55
PETER PARKER, SPIDEY NO. 81	PG 58
PUNISHER NO. 20	PG 56
STAR TREK: STARFLEET NO. 7	PG 59
THUNDERBOLTS NO. 3	PG 56
WHAT IF? NO. 98	PG 60
X-MAN NO. 28	PG 60
X-MEN NO. 65	PG 61

SHIPPING APRIL 23, 1997

CABLE & X-FORCE '97	PG 61
CAPTAIN AMERICA NO. 8	PG 56
DEVIL DINOSAUR SPRING FLING	PG 56
ELEKTRA NO. 8	PG 56
MARVEL VISION NO. 19	PG 56
SPECTACULAR SPIDEY NO. 247	PG 58
X-FORCE NO. 67	PG 61
X-MEN UNLIMITED NO. 15	PG 61

SHIPPING APRIL 30, 1997

DEADPOOL NO. 6	PG 61
ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS	PG 57
SILVER SURFER NO. 129	PG 57
SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP NO. 7	PG 58
STAR TREK: EARLY NO. 5	PG 59
UNTOLD CAPT. MARVEL NO. 3	PG 57
VENOM: LICENSE TO KILL NO. 1	PG 58
WOLVERINE NO. 114	PG 61

NEXT MONTH

- MORE AMALGAM !
- FANTASTIC FOUR ARTIST BRETT BOOTH TALKS ABOUT THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC!!!
- CONAN'S COMING BACK TO MARVEL!
- BLADE IS COMING TO THE BIG SCREEN! READ ABOUT IT HERE!
- UP-AND-COMING ARTIST FRANK TERAN
- MARVEL MEMORIES WITH PASQUAL FERRY
- PAUL SMITH'S NEVER SEEN COMICS
- SPIDER-MAN GOES ON SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE AND MORE!